

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Examiner: N/A

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Group Art Unit:

Serial No.: Pending

Priority date: 02 October 2002  
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APPARATUS AND METHODS****Preliminary Amendment**Mail Stop PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO BOX 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following amendments before substantively reviewing the herein-filed patent application.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of the claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.